

The German chartered transport *Weimar*, with crew for the *Arctica*, *Iron*, *Kaiser*, and *Kornorant*, left Singapore on the 29th April for Nagasaki.

Tiz 'Georgia' Magnolia's performances have not been well received in Ceylon, where attempts have been made to follow up the *Koto Chronicle* success.

A BODA water famine was threatening Bangkok according to latest advices. Cholera having claimed several victims in the Siam capital, water is at a discount, hence the demand for aerated water.

The return football match between the Singapore O.C. and I.L.M.S. *Undoubtedly* resulted in a win for the Club by 1 goal to nil. The Club played with ten men throughout. In the previous match the *Undoubtedly* were beaten by 3 goals to nil.

Quoting the comments of our correspondent 'Diogenes' on the 'Hard Case' submitted to the Field by the Hon. Secretary of the Hongkong Cricket Club, the Editor of the *Singapore Free Press* adds:—Our opinion does not agree with that of the Field. The catch literally conforms to the rule governing 'out' by a catch. The ball has been touched by the bat, and it has not yet touched the ground. The decision given by the Field could be used in this way. A ball runs up the bat and appears likely to fall on the batsman's foot, however, fall just behind him. The decision in question would entitle the batsman again to interpose his bat and balk the wicket-keeper of what might prove to be a quite legitimate catch. Another point arises out of this. A batsman plays the ball, but it spins in again towards the wicket. He plays hard down on it again to keep the ball out. It rebounds from his pads and again comes in, touches the wicket, and the batsman falls. The second stroke according to the Field's decision gives immunity from being out as the batsman could not run, and he is therefore not out! But many of us have seen, in any extended cricket experience, a batsman after playing the ball, fizzle it repeatedly in keeping it out of the wicket. Had he knocked it on with even a third or a fourth effort or kicked it on to the wicket with his foot he would certainly be given out. Yet it is manifest he could not run, either for the third or fourth contact with the bat, nor could he score a leg by kicking the ball away in trying to keep it off the wicket with his foot. It seems to us that the bat in a second stroke is merely a part of the person. If the batsman after playing the ball, voluntarily interposes his bat or any part of his person to save his wicket he has that privilege given him by the rule, but at the same time he is deprived of any claim to score off the second contact, but he must accept the risk of being out. If after playing the ball, it goes up and again falls upon his person or even upon his bat he making no voluntary second stroke movement, and the ball bounds off, he can both score and obviously can be out, on the result. The umpire can judge best as to this. That, at any rate, is the principle on which we should go if acting as umpire. We do not think that the Field opinion shows signs of having considered the question fully in its various bearings.

ALLISON Pianos, Art Models, very fine, \$400/450; Cabin Pianos, small but excellent, \$175/220.—W. Robinson & Co.

The latest addition to the Messagerie Maritime fleet is *the* *Orion*, a steamship of 6,500 tons gross register, built last year by the Company at La Ciotat. Her dimensions are 462 feet in length, 47 feet in breadth and 36 feet in depth. Her engines are of the triple expansion type.

The name of Father Visco is mentioned as a likely successor to the vacant See of Malacca. Father Visco succeeded Bishop Gassier in Bangalore, and is also the Principal of the College there. He is said to be of the ablest and most energetic priests of the Foreign Missions in the East.

There are at present, says the *Mainichi*, thirteen clock factories in the Empire, which produce over 240,000 clocks every year. As imitation clocks have begun to be turned out and shipped to China in late years, the manufacturers organized a guild last year with a view to stopping this evil. A rule was adopted to hold a general meeting once a year and not to engage mechanics without testimonials from their last employers.

This venerable Dowager Duchess of Abercorn has had an unusual experience, even for one who can count, as her Grace can, 120 descendants. Within twenty-four hours she has been presented with four great-grandsons, Lady Edith King-Noel and Lady Frances Grey having both given birth to sons, and on the same day the Hon. Mrs. Frederick Anson gave birth to twin boys. All these ladies are granddaughters of the duchess.

There is a great gathering of steamers in the river in anticipation of brick business in rice. There appears to be some division of opinion among local rice merchants as to the supply of paddy (says the *Siam Free Press* of the 24th April). On some sides it is asserted that brick business will not be started for another month, and this view seems shared by a number of the principal Chinese dealers. While on the other hand a week's time is expected to see steamers loading rapidly and clearing from the port. The Scottish Oriental vessels are here in home force and others are expected, though the river cannot be said to be unusually crowded for this period of the year. Rice business will probably drag a little this year.

W. Robinson & Co. have 150 Pianos for Hire on Monthly Payments, also Pianos returned from Hire cheap.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL']

LONDON, May 4, 1896.

COMMERCIAL TREATY BETWEEN JAPAN AND SWEDEN.

A Commercial Treaty between Japan and Sweden has been signed at Stockholm.

LI HUNG CHANG IN EUROPE.

After the Russian Coronation festivities, Li Hung Chang will visit the Courts of the Treaty Powers, partly with the view of obtaining an increase of five to eight per cent on the *ad valorem* import duties at the treaty ports.

THE ENGLISH PRESS AND THE LOTHAIRE ACQUITTAL.

The English Press is indignant at the acquittal of Capt. Lothaire, and declares the matter must not be allowed to rest.

LONDON, May 4, 1896.

SUSPENSION OF THE DUTY ON RICE IN TONKIN.

Owing to a famine in Tonkin, the French Government has abolished the duty on rice from Hongkong until June.

(Le Courrier de Saigon.)

MADAGASCAR.

Paris, April 25.

The Senate has unanimously voted the credits for Madagascar in the belief that Sarrion will be asked this evening to form a Cabinet. Demonstrations were held last night against the Senate.

THE FRENCH CABINET.

Paris, April 26.

President Faure has asked Sarrion to form a Cabinet. Sarrion will reply to-night.

Paris, April 27.

Sarrion refused to form a Cabinet, and the President has sent for Méline.

Paris, April 28.

The following is Méline's Coalition Cabinet:—

Certainities	..... Agriculture.
Méline	..... Interior.
Barthelemy	..... Foreign Affairs.
Cochery	..... Finance.
Deschanel	..... Colonies.
André Lebou	..... Commerce.
General Billot	..... War.

Probables:—

Darlan	..... Justice.
Admiral Desnord	..... Navy.
Valé	..... Public Works.
Rambaud	..... Education.

Deschanel has refused the portfolio of Minister for the Colonies; Lebou will take it.

THE PRINCE BULGARIA.

Paris, April 25.

The Prince of Bulgaria has arrived.

Paris, April 26.

Visits have been exchanged between the Prince and President Faure, Brissot, Loubet, and Bourgeois.

SHANGHAI RACES.

SECOND.—Tuesday, May 5.

10.—THE SWEET STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of £15 each, to be divided between the first, second and third ponies in the proportion of 50, 30 and 20 per cent, with £100 added to the winner. For *bona fide* jockeys, a date of entry.—Weight for inches as per scale.—Entrance £15. Extra—Three-quarters of a mile.

Black and White	..... 1
Savada	..... 2
Aryama	..... 3

21 starters. Time, 1.32.

THIRD DAY.—Wednesday, May 6.

1.—THE GREAT NORTHERN PLATE.—Value, £125 each. For ponies, 15 to 20. For Ponies that have run at this meeting.—Weight for inches as per scale.—Winner of one race at this meeting, 7 lbs. extra; two or more races, 10 lbs. extra.—Entrance £15. Extra—Three-quarters of a mile.

Revelstone	..... 1
Mengji	..... 2
Comet	..... 3

13 starters. Time, 1.31.

2.—THE SHANGHAI HANDICAP.—Value, £150, added to the Sweepstakes of £15 each.—For all ponies that have run at this meeting.—First pony to receive 70 per cent; second pony, 20 per cent; third pony, 10 per cent.—To be handicapped after the Second Day's races.—One mile and a half.

Tristan	..... 1
Destroyer	..... 2
Sans Pareil	..... 3

18 starters. Time, 3.16.

3.—THE SHANGHAI STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of £15 each.—For all ponies that have run at this meeting.—First pony to receive 70 per cent; second pony, 20 per cent; third pony, 10 per cent.—To be handicapped after the Second Day's races.—One mile and a half.

Niblick	..... 1
Gecko	..... 2
Jack Sprit	..... 3

13 starters. Time, 2.7.

4.—THE PARI-MUTUEL CUP.—Value, £150, added to the Sweepstakes of £15 each.—Second pony to receive 20 per cent, and the third pony 10 per cent of the Stakes.—For China Ponies.—Weight for inches as per scale.—Griffin at date of entry allowed 7 lbs.—Non-starters and Winners at this Meeting, 7 lbs. extra.—One mile and a half.

Blackdown	..... 1
Sinbad	..... 2
Spartan	..... 3

9 starters. Time, 3.15.

5.—THE YANGTSE STAKES.—Value, £150; Second pony, £50.—For China Ponies that have run at this Meeting.—Weight for inches as per scale.—Non-Winners allowed 10 lbs.—Entrance, £15.—Two miles.

Star	..... 1
Edipse	..... 2
Primrose	..... 3

8 starters. Time, 4.44.

THE FAMINE IN TONKIN.

CHILDREN SOLD FOR A FEW CENTS.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Hanoi, April 25.

The situation in Tonkin at the present moment is most serious. A terrible famine, which threatens to plunge the most prosperous portions of the country into the direst misery for many years, just when the Colony is on the point of entering on a new era of prosperity, is devastating Tonkin. Last year the rainfall was meagre, and in consequence the harvest has been a failure. The Annamites at the best of times are improvident, living from hand to mouth and putting aside very little rice as a provision for times of scarcity. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the natives throughout the whole of the country are in the most miserable condition. It is reported that mothers are offering their children for sale for a few cents, and in Hanoi even only the other day a mother offered to sell her three children for eight cents, preferring to hand them over to a European rather than see them perish from hunger in her arms!

In the towns everywhere the streets are crowded by natives who have come in from the provinces to beg for rice. It is not so bad in the towns, but in the country the state of affairs is awful. The inhabitants immigrate from districts en masse. In the provinces of Sonay (in the North), Bachi, Ninh, and Hung-Yen this exodus is most marked. Where do all these famished people go? A natural enough question. As I have already indicated to you some of the people reach the cities to beg for assistance; the remainder—Well, they are going about pillaging and perpetrating acts of the grossest violence.

Rice has attained a fabulous price. I am told that at Lang-Son the price has gone up to \$5.20 a picul—what will it cost in two or three months hence? The Chinese monopolists, as you may imagine, recognize that this is their opportunity, and have already indicated a disposition to form all sorts of syndicates for buying up the first crops. These combinations are of such a nature that if the Government does not take steps to prevent this action of the monopolists there is every likelihood of the misery throughout the country being prolonged even beyond the next harvest. I understand that steps are being taken, however, to mitigate the suffering. Already, the Governor-General has sent to Cochinchina for five hundred tons of rice, valued at \$30,000, which will be forwarded to the provinces where the famine is felt most acutely, the expenditure to be repaid by the provinces in two years. M. Rousseau has also subscribed \$900 and the Secretary General, M. Fourès, \$300, and a public subscription has been opened by the newspapers in Tonkin for the benefit of the starving, and various Societies have announced their intention to hold entertainments in aid of the Famine Fund. This may be successful in assuaging the difficulties of the moment, but it will effect no permanent amelioration. In spite of the recent loan of \$9,000,000 francs the coffers of the Protectorate are empty. Should cholera break out virulently, or any similar epidemic, which is not at all improbable, then it will be a veritable calamity. Already several cases of the terrible scourge have been reported from the provinces where the famine has been felt most severely. If the cholera gets a little headway it will have a disastrous effect upon the miserable native population.

You will see from the facts I have stated above that at the present moment Tonkin is in a most terrible plight.

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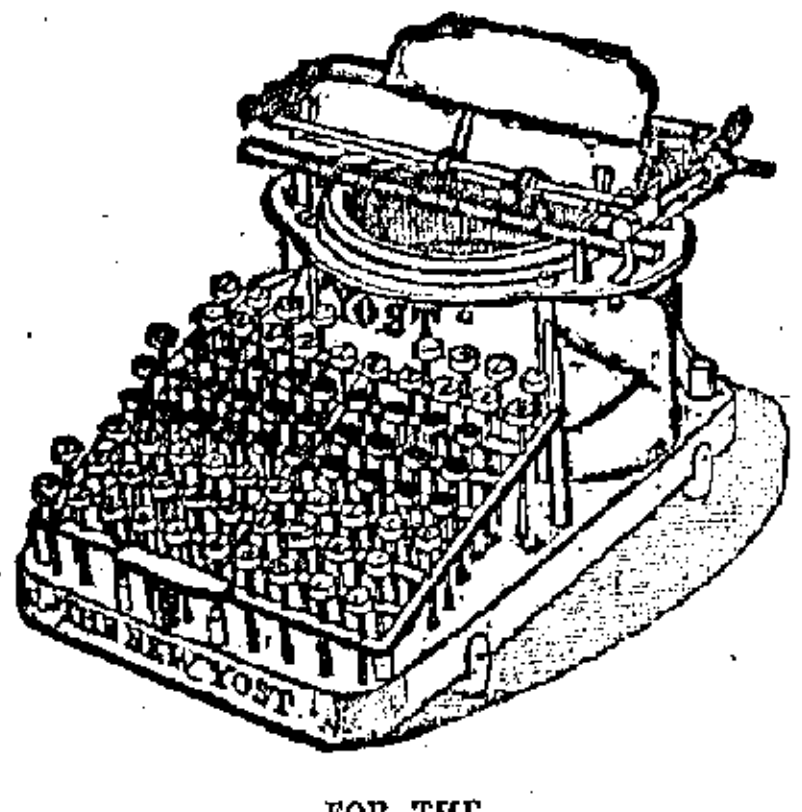
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Hongkong, April 4, 1896. 725

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SHARE LIST—QUOTATIONS.—MAY 6, 1896.

Stocks.	No. of Shares.	Value.	Paid-up.	Closing Quotations.
BANKS.				
Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Corp.	30,000	173	all	184 1/2 prem., = \$355, sellers
New Bank of China, Ltd.	100,000	100	all	100, buyers
Bank of China & Japan, Limited	39,500	2	all	2, buyers
Bank of China, Ltd.	1,200	2	all	2, buyers
National Bank of China, Limited	10,000	100	all	100, buyers
INSURANCE.				
Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.	10,000	250	all	250, sellers
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ltd.	24,000	83.33	all	83.33, sellers
North-China Insurance Co., Ltd.	5,000	100	all	100, ex div., sellers
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.	30,000	100	all	100, buyers
Union Insurance Society Co., Ltd.	10,000	250	all	250, sales and buyers
Yangtze Insurance Association, Ltd.	8,000	100	all	100, sellers
FINANCIAL.				
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	100	all	100, sales and sellers
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	8,000	250	all	250, sales and sellers
H'kong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.	12,500	125	all	183 1/2 prem., = \$353.75, [sales & sellers]
STEAMSHIPS.				
China and Manila S. S. Co., Ltd.	5,000	50	all	50, sales
Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd.	20,000	50	all	50, sales
H. K. & M. Steamship Co., Ltd.	80,000	10	all	10, sales and sellers
Indo-China S. N. Company, Limited	10,000	10	all	10, sales
China Mutual S. N. Co.	20,000	10	all	10, sales
DO.				
(now issued).	20,000	10	all	10, sales
REFINERIES.				
China Sugar Company, Limited	20,000	100	all	115, sellers
Luko Sugar Company, Limited	7,000	100	all	102, sellers
WHAVERIES.				
H. K. & W. Wharf & Godown Co.	20,000	50	all	50, sales and sellers
Wanchai Warehouse and Storage Co., Limited	2,000	100	all	100, sales and sellers
LAND AND BUILDING.				
Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Company, Limited	50,000	100	all	50, sales and sellers
Kowloon Land and Building Co., Ltd.	6,000	50	all	50, sales
Humphreys' Estate & Finance Co., Ltd.	25,400	10	all	10, sales and sellers
West Point Building Co., Limited	12,500	60	all	60, sales
TRAMWAYS.				
H. K. High-Level Tramway Co., Ltd.	1,200	100	all	100, buyers
MINING.				
Joleba Mining & Trading Co., Ltd.	45,000	5	all	5, sales
Punjab Mining Co., Ltd.	60,000	5	all	5, buyers
Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin	12,000	500	all	500, sales
NEW BALANCE GOLD MINING CO., LTD.				
Raub Aust. Gold Mining Co., Ltd.	20,000	1	all	1, sales
Oliver Freshford Mines, Ltd.	15,000	5	all	5, sales
PLANTING, ETC.				
China-Borneo Company, Ltd.	7,500	100	all	100, buyers
H. G. Brown & Co., Limited	6,000	50	all	50, buyers
NOTES, ETC.				
Hongkong Hotel Company, Ltd.	6,000	50	all	50, buyers
DISPENSARIES.				
A. S. Watson & Co., Limited	60,000	10	all	10, sales and buyers
Dakin, Crookshank & Co., Limited	20,000	5	all	5, sales
LIGHTING.				
H. K. and Electric Co., Limited	7,000	10	all	10, buyers
Hongkong Electric Co., Limited	10,000	10	all	10, sales and buyers
BRICK AND CEMENT.				
Green Island Cement Co., Ltd.	20,000	10	all	10, sales
MISCELLANEOUS.				
Bell's Asbestos Eastern Agency, Ltd.	8,000	2	all	2, sales
Campbell, Moore & Co., Limited	1,200	10	all	10, sales
Geo. Fenwick & Co., Limited	6,000	25	all	25, sales
Hongkong Bakery Company, Ltd.	600	50	all	50, sales
Hongkong Dairy Farm Co., Ltd.	10,000	10	all	10, sales and buyers
Hongkong Ice Company, Limited	5,000	25	all	25, sales and buyers
H'kong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	10,000	100	all	100, sales
Ing Co., Ltd.	10,000	100	all	100, sales
International Cotton Manufacturing Co., Ltd.	10,000	100	all	100, sales
Leat-Kung-Mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.	2,000	20	all	20, sales
Oram and Co., Ltd.	2,000	20	all	20, sales
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ltd.	2,000	20	all	20, sales
FOUNDERS' SHARES.				
Chinese Imperial 1886	787,200	250	7 1/2	annum 10 1/2 prem., sales
A. G. STOKES, Share-Broker.				

Notices to Consignees.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
THE PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S STEAMER MANILA.
FROM ANTWERP, LONDON AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo by the above-named Vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Godowns of the HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY, at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out Mark by Mark and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

H. A. RITCHIE,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, May 2, 1896. 922

THE S.S. Hertha, Capt. HILDEBRANDT, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for counter-signature by the Undersigned, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from the Godowns.

SIEMSEN & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, April 30, 1896. 901

Not Responsible for Debts.

Neither the Captain, the Agents, nor Owners will be Responsible for any Debt contracted by the Officers or Crew of the following Vessels, during their stay in Hongkong Harbour:

GERARD C. TORR, Amer. barque, Capt. J. F. Shurtleff—Standard Oil Co.
LUIGI, American ship, Captain J. E. Ballard—Captain.
QUEEN ELIZABETH, British ship, Captain C. E. Fulton—Shewan & Co.
SINTRA, Amer. ship, Capt. Woodridge.
—Widner & Co.

Notices to Consignees.

MOGUL LINE OF STEAMERS.
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
STEAMSHIP PATHAN.
FROM GLASGOW, LIVERPOOL AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., at Kowloon, whence and/or from the Wharves delivery may be obtained. No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 11th Inst. will be subject to rent.

DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, May 6, 1896. 943

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S STEAMER BRINDISI.
FROM BOMBAY AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo by the above-named Vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Godowns of the HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY, at Kowloon, whence and/or from the Wharves delivery may be obtained. No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 11th Inst. will be subject to rent.

H. A. RITCHIE,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, May 4, 1896. 937

SHIRE LINE OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
STEAMSHIP BRECONSHIRE.
FROM ANTWERP, LONDON AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY, at Kowloon, whence and/or from the Wharves delivery may be obtained. No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 11th Inst. will be subject to rent.

DODWELL, CARLILL & Co.,
Agents.
Hongkong, May 2, 1896. 927

THE CHINA MUTUAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
FROM LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW, NEWPORT AND SINGAPORE.

THE Company's Steamship *Myosotis* having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed at their risk into the Godowns of the HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN CO., at Kowloon, whence and/or from the Wharves delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Claims must be sent in to the Office of the Undersigned before Noon on the 11th Instant, or they will not be recognized. All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on SATURDAY, the 9th Instant, at 3 p.m.

No Fire Insurance has been effected, and any Goods remaining in the Godowns after the 9th Instant will be subject to rent. Bills of Lading will be countersigned by **HOLLIDAY, WISE & Co.,** Agents.
Hongkong, May 2, 1896. 921

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY'S STEAMER MINZAPORE.
FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND STRAITS.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo by the above-named Vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Godowns of the HONGKONG AND KOWLOON WHARF AND GODOWN COMPANY, at Kowloon, whence and/or from the Wharves delivery may be obtained. No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 11th Inst. will be subject to rent.

H. A. RITCHIE,
Superintendent.
Hongkong, May 1, 1896. 915

SAILOR'S HOME.

ANY Out-of-Country Books, or Papers, may be thankfully registered at the SAILOR'S HOME, West Point. Address: Care of Superintendent.

Intimations.

WEEKLY NEWS FOR HOME.

The Overland China Mail.

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Address to
JOHN C. THOMSON,
Hon. Sec. to the College.
Hongkong, February 25, 1891.

Fees for Public Vehicles.

IN VICTORIA WITH TWO BEARERS.

Half hour ... \$0.10 | Three hours ... \$0.50
One hour ... 0.20 | Six hours ... 0.70
Day (6 a.m. to 6 p.m.) \$1.
If the trip is extended beyond Victoria, half fare extra.

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Fireside.
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NOTE.—Victoria extends from Mount Davis to Causeway Bay and up to the level of Robinson Road. The vehicle is discharged beyond these limits half fare extra to be allowed for the return journey. Extra bearers or drivers and extra horses to be paid proportionate sums.

HONGKONG MARKET PRICES.

Corrected to Saturday, May 2, 1896.

At 1020 Cash per Dollar Mexican.

Prices.

Highest. Lowest. Chinese Names.

Butcher Meat.

Bacon, English, .. lb.	—	—
Amo. Sugar cured, ..	360	—
Powchow, ..	190	—
Japan, cured, ..	210	—
Beef sirloin & prime cut, catty	150	—
Corned, .. catty	150	—
Roast, ..	150	—
Soup, ..	110	—
Steak, ..	150	—
Duck's Brains, .. per set	60	50
Tongue fresh, each	350	—
Head, ..	500	—
Heart, ..	150	—
Hump, Salt, catty	140	—
Feet, .. each	60	50
Kidneys, ..	50	—
Tail, ..	100	—
Liver, .. catty	70	—
Tripes (undressed) catty	60	50

Calves Head and Feet, set

500

Hams, American, .. lb.

360

Chinese, ..

220

English, New, ..

500

Japan cured, ..

280

Shanghai, ..

200

Mutton Chop, ..

150

Leg, ..

150

Shoulder, ..

120

Pigs' Chindings, .. catty

70 80

Feet, ..

100

Fry, ..

150

Head, .. each

500 450

Heart, ..

50 40

Kidneys, .. pair

80 70

Liver, .. lb.

140

Pork, Chop, .. catty

160

Corned, ..

—

Leg, ..

150

Fat or Lard, ..

130

Sheeps' Head and Feet, set

350

Heart, .. each

50 40

Kidneys, ..

70

Liver, .. lb.

150 140

Sucking Pigs, .. each